



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS
The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of
Homeland Security and Emergency Management
N.H. Department of Safety, John J. Barthelmes, Commissioner
33 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03305
1-800-852-3792
newsletters@dos.nh.gov

June 2012



N.H. DOT photo
Flash flood damage to Sullivan Center Road in Sullivan
resulting from a severe thunderstorm on May 29.

THUNDERSTORM POUNDS CHESHIRE COUNTY – For residents of Keene and several surrounding communities a severe thunderstorm on the evening of May 29 must have seemed like a rerun of the October 2005 flood. The storm dumped more than six inches of rain on the region, causing flash flooding that washed out roads and culverts and isolated many homes. The storm caused damage estimated at more than \$3 million, prompting President Obama to approve a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Cheshire County. Hardest hit were Keene, Walpole, Surry, Sullivan, Gilsum and Westmoreland. Parts of routes 9, 10, 12 and 12A, and 37 municipal roads were washed out or blocked by high water.

No injuries were reported in connection with the storm but about two dozen people spent the night in shelters set up at the Keene Recreation Center and Gilsum Elementary School. The State Emergency Operations Center was activated at Level 2 to monitor response operations.

LESS HURRICANE ACTIVITY PREDICTED THIS SEASON – Despite some pre-season storm activity, forecasters at Colorado State University are predicting that this year's Atlantic Hurricane Season will be less active than the average for the period 1981-2010. They attribute that prediction to unusual cooling in tropical portions of the Atlantic Ocean where hurricanes spawn. The researchers estimate that 2012 will have about four hurricanes (median is 6.5), 10 named storms (median is 12.0), and two major (Category 3-4-5) hurricanes (median is 2.0). The probability of U.S. major hurricane landfall is estimated to be about 80 percent of the long-period average. They expect Atlantic basin Net Tropical Cyclone activity in 2012 to be approximately 75 percent of the long-term average. But, the forecasters say, coastal residents should remember that it only takes one hurricane making landfall to make it an active season for them, and they need to prepare the same for every season, regardless of how much activity is predicted.

POWER SUPPLIES FOR SUMMER EXPECTED TO BE ADEQUATE – Barring the possibility of an unusual extended heat wave, electric power supplies in New England are predicted to be sufficient to meet the needs of residential and commercial customers. ISO New England, the regional power grid operator, is predicting peak demand at 27,440 megawatts (MW) under normal summer weather conditions of about 90 degrees F. This figure takes into account continued slow economic growth and consumer demand in the region. More extreme conditions, such as an extended heat wave of 95 degrees F. could produce peak demand of 29,620 MW. New England's total electric power capacity is 32,800 MW, including generation, demand resources and imports from neighboring regions.

An extended heat wave in the region last year pushed electricity demand to 27,707 MW on July 22. That was just below the all-time record peak demand of 28,130 MW, set on Aug. 2, 2006.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCE HELD – New Hampshire's eighth annual Emergency Preparedness Conference was held Tuesday, June 26, at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester, bringing together more than 500 emergency management, public safety and other professionals for training and discussion. Greenland Emergency Management Director Kenneth Fernald was named EMD of the year. The Stovepipe Award went to Joseph Riley of the Capital Area Public Health Network. And a new award, Most Valuable Partner (MVP), went to Governor John H. Lynch.

STATE PARTICIPATES IN CYBER EXERCISE – New Hampshire joined other states in FEMA Region I and a variety of federal agencies in participating in the National Level Exercise 2012 on June 6, which involved simulated cyber attacks in the U.S. and other parts of the world. The scenario began with a simulated train derailment in Australia, which was believed caused by an attack on computer-controlled signaling and operational systems. Later, a federal financial processing center in New Orleans was compromised, diverting the pay deposits of thousands of U.S. government employees. New Hampshire's EOC faced simulated computer failures and other technological issues as part of the exercise, as well as responding to a cyber attack that shut down a waste water treatment plant.

FIRE DAMAGES NUCLEAR SUB – A five-alarm fire badly damaged the USS Miami on May 23 when the Los Angeles Class nuclear submarine was in dry dock for an overhaul at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Fire companies from the shipyard and the Seacoast Region fought the stubborn blaze for most of the night, assisted by crews from Portland, Maine, and Boston's Logan Airport. The N.H. State Emergency Operations Center was activated with ESF-2 (Communications) and ESF-4 (Firefighting) and assisted in providing carbon dioxide apparatus from a New Hampshire company. Personnel from HSEM and the state Radiation Health Section staffed the shipyard command post during the event. Seven firefighters were injured fighting the blaze. An investigation revealed that the fire started in a vacuum cleaner being used in repair work. It is not clear whether the sub can be repaired.

N.H. EMERGENCY PERSONNEL JOIN IN EL SALVADOR EXCHANGE – Local and state emergency management and public safety officials and National Guard members visited El Salvador May 7-11 to participate in an emergency management and medical response seminar. The visit was part of an exchange program between the N.H. National Guard and the government of El Salvador that started in 2000. It focused on lessons learned from recent Salvadoran flood disaster relief operations and best practices by New Hampshire emergency response agencies to remedy future disasters. The group also toured El Salvador's national emergency management center, the construction site of a new emergency operations center and other facilities.

Included in the group were: Kathryn Doult and Mike Poirier from HSEM; Rick Cricenti, DHHS; Sean Goodwin, Division of Emergency Communication; Chris LeClaire, Portsmouth Fire; Steve Solomon, Conway Fire; George Klauber, Derry Fire; Shaun Mulholland, Allenstown Police; and Paul Dean, UNH Police. The local officials are all emergency management directors or coordinators in their communities.

NEW ENGLAND, EASTERN CANADIAN EM PERSONNEL MEET – Emergency Management personnel from New England and the provinces of Eastern Canada met May 29-31 in Fredericton, New Brunswick, to discuss issues affecting both sides of the border. Members of the International Emergency Management Group represented were New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland/Labrador. New Hampshire was represented by Chris Pope, Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and Jenn Harper, Co-director of the N.H. Information and Analysis Center. The representatives discussed Vermont's disaster recovery from Tropical Storm Irene, off-site responses to nuclear power plant accidents and military assistance to civil emergencies.

HSEM SEEKS INPUT FOR HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN – HSEM staff members are currently working to update the state's Hazard Mitigation Plan and would like input from emergency management, municipal officials and the general public. Anyone can participate in an online survey by going to the following link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/72D79B2>

Keep up with emergency preparedness information in New Hampshire on www.readynh.nh.gov and [Twitter.com/ReadyNH](https://twitter.com/ReadyNH). For information on upcoming training and classes go to: <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/training/schedtrdates.html>